

DEFINITION OF SETTING

Setting, quite simply, is the story's _____ and _____. Setting can include the locale of the story, the _____, the time of day, and the time period (_____, present, or _____). One purpose of the setting is to provide _____ - a place for the characters to live and act in. A good setting helps to make the story _____ and believable.

While setting includes _____ attributes such as _____ or wall décor, it can also include complex dimensions such as the _____ moment the story occupies or its **social context**. Because particular _____ and _____ have their own personality or emotional essence (such as the stark feel of a desert or the grim, wary resolve in the United States after the September 11th attacks), _____ is also one of the primary ways that a fiction _____ establishes **mood or atmosphere**.

Typically, short stories occur in limited _____ and _____ frames, such as the Dellingham's shabby flat in O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*, whereas novels may involve many _____ settings in widely varying _____. Even in short stories, however, readers should become sensitive to subtle shifts in setting for these details about the setting help reveal a _____. Setting is often developed with narrative description, but it may also be shown with _____, dialogue, or a character's thoughts.

Characters in a story all have to _____ in one way or another with its _____. Setting can often help reveal character traits, and it is one of the primary ways an author establishes the story's _____. In some stories, the setting can strongly affect the plot, functioning almost like another character. An example of this is in *A Sound of Thunder* when Eckels notices that he has altered his country's history by simply stepping on a butterfly. The setting is extremely important to the plot and the actions of the characters in this story. More commonly, though, the setting is always there as a _____—illuminating character aspects, influencing _____, and helping to set the mood.

Like the other elements of storytelling, creating a setting is a _____. To create a believable setting, or one that can make us feel happiness, _____, or _____, the writer must select the right _____ or images. Images are words that call forth a response from our senses- sight, smell, touch, hearing, and at times, even taste. When a writer supplies a few right images, (such as the details of the pathway and dinosaurs in *A Sound of Thunder*) we, _____, are able to provide the rest of the scenery. We might draw from our own experience, or we might go beyond our _____ into our instincts and into the pool of our subconscious. There we will find all kinds of images- of desert islands, palaces, and _____ where, so far as we know, we have never been. This exercise of our _____ is what makes fiction a more personal and mind-enhancing experience than, for all their lazy pleasures, the ready-made images of _____ and television.

SETTING VOCAB WORDS:

Setting: the time and place of a story

Social context: The significant cultural issues affecting a story's setting or authorship

Mood: The underlying feeling or atmosphere produced by a story

SETTING EXERCISE HOMEWORK

INSTRUCTIONS

Select one phrase from each of the following columns.

Column A	Column B
A sports stadium	on Halloween
A desert valley	during a heat wave
A city street	after the United States has miraculously won the world cup in soccer
A hotel suite	after the September 11 th attacks
A used car lot	in the year 2050
An emergency room	during a power outage
A train	on the day of a wedding
	as a huge comet is about to hit the earth

Using the selected combination as a starting point, write a description of this setting, including additional **details** to help develop it. Your final paragraph should be at least 10 sentences.

What mood is created by the setting you described? Explain how the setting's details help to establish its mood. Example: Is the mood you created spooky because of the darkness?